

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
5th FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2008 - 3:00 P.M.

The International Bridge Commission met at the above place and date.

Item 1: Mike Breitinger called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. Those present were:

Mike Breitinger, D-7 (Rep. Steve Ortega)
Gerardo Camacho, D-3 (Rep. J. Alexandro Lozano)
Analisa Cordova, D-2 (Rep. Susie Byrd)
Michelle Barron, D-4 (Rep. Melina Castro)
Dan Chavez, D-5 (Rep. Rachel Quintana)
Saul Frank, D-8 (Rep. Beto O'Rourke)

ABSENT:

Tanny Berg, Chair – D-1 (Rep. Ann Morgan Lilly)
Jorge Salom, (Mayor John Cook)
VACANT, D-6 (Rep. Eddie Holguin)

OTHERS PRESENT

Said Larbi-Cherif, International Bridges Director
Ray Mendoza, International Bridges
Mark S, Assistant City Attorney

Item 2:

Motion made by Mr. Camacho, seconded by Ms. Cordova and carried to approve the Minutes to the last meeting of August 19, 2008.

AYES: Mr. Breitinger, Ms. Barron, Mr. Chavez, Mr. Frank

NAYS: None

Mr. Mike Breitinger introduced Mr. Dan Chavez from Rep. Rachel Quintana's district as a new member of the IBC board.

Item 3: Discussion and Action on Presentation of Bridge Management Report.

Item #A Update on Bridge Capital Projects.

Mr. Ray Mendoza commented upon bridge projects. Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif commented on design of canopies, removing sidewalks and replacing with concrete and that the city of Juarez was completing a pedestrian lane which would direct traffic to two outside lanes around Juarez Avenue. Mr. Ray Mendoza commented on the SEA study of commuter POE conceptual plan for POE between BOTA and Zaragoza Bridge.

Mr. Ray Mendoza, Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif and Ms. Jane Shang attended a Border Conference in Dallas Texas. Mr. Mendoza reported that the networking at the conference was good. Mr. Mike Breitinger asked about hosting a Border Conference in El Paso – can it be done and is money available. Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif and Mr. Ray Mendoza stated that they would look into it.

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif stated that GSA is remodeling BOTA and that there will be a meeting in El Paso on October 8 from 9am to 12 pm at the Camino Real hotel and that they would be seeking comments.

Item #B. FY2009 Budget

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif explained budget and presented hand outs to all board members. The Bridge department pays for Parking Meter Division out of Bridge Revenue. And that all revenue from the Meter Department pays for the Plaza Theater loans.

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif commented on increased security at the Bridges and increased maintenance including street sweeping.

Item #C IBC Ordinance Amendment

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif stated that City Council approved the item to remove the condition that IBC board members must live in the same district as the City Representative that is appointing them. It was voted on Sept 30, 2008 and passed.

Item #D – Meetings

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif questioned the board members as to wanting to continue holding monthly board meetings. All members were in agreement to continue holding monthly IBC board meetings.

Item #E – Bridge ADA Compliance

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif commented that the bridges are currently in ADA compliance and that the existing structure is ok. The only changes would be made if there is anything added to the bridges. Michelle Barron asked about restrooms available to the public. Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif stated that there are three ADA accessible restrooms available northbound but none southbound.

Item 4: Discussion and Action on the GSA Head House project at the Paso Del Norte Bridge.

Mr. Ray Mendoza and Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif both commented on the target date to open all lanes at the Paso Del Norte Bridge is Thanksgiving 2008. Currently the closed lane is next to the head house at Paso Del Norte.

Item 5: Discussion and Action on Potential Proposals for Shortening Wait Times at the Ports of Entry.

Mr. Said Larbi-Cherif stated that he had spoken to Bill Molosky of CBP and that they were in the process of installing equipment that will help them cut wait at the bridges. .

Item 9: OPEN COMMENT PERIOD: There were no open comments.

Item 10: Adjourn.

Motion was made by Mr. Camacho, seconded by Ms. Cordova and carried to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Approved as to form:

_____ Secretary